

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** Method of producing phosphoric acid, comprising

- at least one phosphate ore attack with a first aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid having an HCl concentration of no more than 10% by weight, with the formation of an attack liquor, said attack comprising a dissolving of the phosphate of the ore in said first aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid with a yield of attack greater than 80% by weight, expressed as  $P_2O_5$ , the obtained attack liquor containing this dissolved phosphate in the form of phosphate ions,

- a first separation, in the attack liquor, between an insoluble solid phase containing impurities and a separate separated aqueous phase comprising in solution said phosphate ions, chloride ions and calcium ions,

- a neutralisation of the said aqueous phase separated from the attack liquor by the addition of a calcium compound in order to form with the said phosphate ions a calcium phosphate insoluble in water, which precipitates,

- a second separation, in the said neutralised aqueous phase, between an aqueous phase comprising in solution calcium ions and chloride ions and a precipitated solid phase based on the said calcium phosphate insoluble in water, and

- a solubilisation of at least part of the said precipitated solid phase separated, in a second aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid having a HCl concentration greater than that of said first aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid, with the formation of an aqueous solution containing phosphate ions, chloride ions and calcium ions,

- an extraction of an said aqueous solution containing phosphate ions, chloride ions and calcium ions by an organic extraction agent, in order to form an aqueous extraction phase comprising chlorine ions and calcium ions and an organic extraction phase containing phosphoric acid, and

- a re-extraction of the organic extraction phase by an aqueous re-extraction agent, in order to isolate an aqueous re-extraction phase containing phosphate ions, as well as, possibly,

~~- a concentration of the aqueous re-extraction phase in order to form an aqueous solution of pure phosphoric acid,~~

~~characterised in that it also comprises~~

~~- a neutralisation of the said aqueous phase separated from the attack liquor by the addition of a calcium compound in order to form with the said phosphate ions a calcium phosphate insoluble in water, which precipitates,~~

~~- a second separation, in the said neutralised aqueous phase, between an aqueous phase comprising in solution calcium ions and~~

~~chloride ions and a precipitated solid phase based on the said calcium phosphate insoluble in water, and~~

~~—a solubilisation of at least part of the said precipitated solid phase separated, in a second aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid, with the formation in the said aqueous solution containing phosphate ions, chloride ions and calcium ions to be extracted by means of an organic extraction agent.~~

2. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the said first aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid has an HCl concentration of no more than 10% by weight, advantageously 3% to 6% by weight, preferably 3% to 5%.

3. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that, in the attack liquor, the molar ratio between HCl and Ca is between 0.6 and 1.3.

4. **(Previously Presented)** Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the attack step is performed at ambient temperature.

5. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the calcium compound of the neutralisation step is chosen from amongst the group consisting of calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide and water-soluble calcium salts, such as calcium carbonate, and in that the calcium phosphate insoluble in water is calcium monohydrogenophosphate (DCP).

6. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the said separated precipitated solid phase, based on  
the said insoluble calcium phosphate, has a concentration of 40% to 50%  
by weight P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 25% to 28% Ca.

7. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the said second aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid  
~~has an HCl concentration greater than that of the said first aqueous  
solution of hydrochloric acid, preferably of between 15% and at a  
maximum 20% by weight.~~

8. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the said solubilised aqueous solution, to be  
extracted, has a P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> concentration of 8% to 15% by weight,  
~~preferably 10% to 13%.~~

9. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 1,  
characterised in that it also comprises, after the said extraction, washing  
of the organic extraction phase ~~extracted~~ by a fraction of the aqueous re-  
extraction phase, in order to eliminate from the organic extraction phase  
~~extracted~~ a hydrochloric acid and calcium chloride content entrained by it  
and any impurities still present.

10. **(Previously Presented)** Method according to claim 1,  
characterised in that it also comprises a steam entrainment of traces of  
organic extraction agent from the aqueous extraction phase containing  
chlorine ions and calcium ions.

11. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 9,  
characterised in that the aqueous re-extraction phase containing  
phosphate ions has a P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> concentration of 15% and 25% by  
weight.

12. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the phosphate ore has a coarse grain size, preferably  
substantially between 150 and 500 µm, and a P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> content of 15%  
to 38% by weight.

13. **(Previously Presented)** Method according to claim 1,  
characterised in that it also comprises a treatment of the said aqueous  
phase issuing from the second separation, containing in solution calcium  
ions and chloride ions, by means of an aqueous solution of sulphuric acid  
with the formation of insoluble calcium sulphate, which precipitates, and  
an aqueous phase based on hydrochloric acid, an isolation of the calcium  
sulphate precipitate and an at least partial recycling of the aqueous phase  
based on hydrochloric acid in order to form the said first and/or second  
aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid.

14. **(Currently Amended)** Method of preparing a phosphoric acid  
salt, comprising

- at least one attack on phosphate ore by an aqueous solution  
of hydrochloric acid having a HCl concentration of no more than 10% by  
weight, with the formation of an attack liquor, said attack comprising a  
dissolving of the phosphate of the ore in said aqueous solution of

hydrochloric acid, with a yield of attack greater than 80% by weight,  
expressed as P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, the obtained attack liquor containing this dissolved  
phosphate in the form of phosphate ions,

- a first separation, in the attack liquor, between an insoluble solid phase containing impurities and an separated aqueous phase,  
containing in solution said phosphate ions, chloride ions and calcium ions,  
- a neutralisation of the said separated aqueous phase by the addition of a calcium compound in order to form, with phosphate ions contained in this aqueous phase, a calcium phosphate insoluble in water, which precipitates, and

- a second separation, in the said neutralised aqueous phase, between a liquid phase and a precipitated solid phase based on the said calcium phosphate insoluble in water.

~~characterised in that the attack on the phosphate ore comprises a dissolving of the phosphate in the ore, the attack liquor containing this phosphate in the form of phosphate ions, and in that the solid phase separated from the attack liquor contains impurities and the aqueous phase separated from the attack liquor contains the said phosphate ions thereof, chloride ions and calcium ions, this aqueous phase being subjected to the said neutralisation and second separation steps.~~

**15. (Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 14,  
characterised in that the said aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid has an

HCl concentration of at most 10% by weight, advantageously 3% to 6% by weight, preferably 3% to 5%.

16. (**Currently Amended**) Method according to claim 14, characterised in that, in the said attack liquor, the molar ratio between HCl and Ca is between 0.6 and 0.13 1.3.

17. (**Previously Presented**) Method according to claim 14, characterised in that the attack step is performed at ambient temperature.

18. (**Currently Amended**) Method according to claim 14, characterised in that the calcium compound of the neutralisation step is chosen from amongst a group consisting of calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide and water-soluble calcium salts, such as calcium carbonate, and in that the calcium phosphate insoluble in water is calcium monohydrogenophosphate (DCP).

19. (**Currently Amended**) Method according to claim 14, characterised in that the said separated precipitated solid phase, based on the said calcium phosphate insoluble in water, has a concentration of 40% to 50% by weight P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 25% to 28% Ca.

20. (**Previously Presented**) Method according to claim 14, characterised in that it also comprises a treatment of the said liquid phase issuing from the second separation and containing calcium ions and chloride ions in solution, by means of an aqueous solution of sulphuric acid with the formation of insoluble calcium sulphate, which precipitates,

and an aqueous phase based on hydrochloric acid, an isolation of the calcium sulphate precipitate and an at least partial recycling of the aqueous phase based on hydrochloric acid in order to form the said aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid.

21. (**Currently Amended**) Method of producing phosphoric acid, comprising

- a solubilisation of a solid phase based on a ~~calcium phosphate insoluble in water~~ monohydrogenophosphate (DCP) in an aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid having an HCl concentration of 15 to 20% by weight, with the formation of a solubilised aqueous solution containing phosphate ions, chloride ions and calcium ions,

- an extraction of the aqueous solution solubilised by an organic extraction agent, in order to form an aqueous extraction phase containing chloride ions and calcium ions and an organic extraction phase containing phosphoric acid, and

- a re-extraction of the organic extraction phase by means of an aqueous re-extraction agent, in order to isolate an aqueous re-extraction phase containing phosphate ions, ~~as well as, possibly,~~  
~~a concentration of the re-extraction aqueous phase in order to form an aqueous solution of pure phosphoric acid.~~

22. (**Cancel**)

23. (**Currently Amended**) Method according to claim 21, characterised in that the said solubilised aqueous solution to be extracted

has a  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ - $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  concentration of 8% to 15% by weight, preferably 10% to 13%.

24. **(Previously Presented)** Method according to claim 21, characterised in that it also comprises, after the said extraction, a washing of the extraction organic phase by a fraction of the re-extraction aqueous phase, in order to eliminate from the extraction organic phase a hydrochloric acid and calcium chloride content entrained by it and any impurities still present.

25. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 24, characterised in that the re-extraction aqueous phase has a  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ - $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  concentration of 15% to 25% by weight.

26. **(Currently Amended)** Method characterised in that a solid phase based on monohydrogenophosphate (DCP) calcium phosphate insoluble in water is obtained by a method according to claim 14 18.

27. **(New)** Method according to claim 1, further comprising a concentrating of the aqueous re-extraction phase in order to form an aqueous solution of pure phosphoric acid.

28. **(New)** Method according to claim 21, further comprising a concentrating of the aqueous re-extraction phase in order to form an aqueous solution of pure phosphoric acid.